(vi) The units are being pursued to apply revised tariffs, issue bills promptly and do prompt disconnections for non-payment.

Buildings for Telephone Exchanges in Himachal Pradesh

†587. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise and Taluka-wise names of the places in Himachal Pradesh where foundation stone was laid for construction of buildings for telephone exchanges during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken for construction of telephone exchanges in all those places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No foundation stone has been laid for the construction of building for Telephone Exchange by the Minister of Communications during the last 3 years.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Discontinuation of Allotment of STD/PCO Facilities to Blind Persons

588. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken by Government to stop grant of permission for STD and PCOs for totally blind persons; if so, whether it is a policy decision or a one time decision;

(b) whether the facility of PCOs and STD in the name of the blind has been extended to offer such handicapped persons opportunities for self-employment and to lead an independent life with dignity; and

(c) the reasons for discontinuing such opportunities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, in the liberalised STD/PCO allotment Policy, a provision already exists

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.